

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (original) Protected alcohol with formula (1)



wherein R<sup>1</sup> represents a linear, straight-chain alkyl group having 26-30 C-atoms, m is 1 or 2, and PG represents a protecting group chosen from the group of substituted methyl ethers, substituted ethyl ethers, substituted benzyl ethers and (substituted) silyl ethers with at least one substituent on the Si-atom being not a methyl group, in case m = 1; and a diol protecting group in case m = 2, with the proviso that PG is no saccharide.

2. (original) Process for the preparation of a protected alcohol according formula (1)



wherein R<sup>1</sup> represents a linear, straight-chain alkyl group having 26-30 C-atoms, m is 1 or 2, and PG represents a protecting group chosen from the group of substituted methyl ethers, (substituted) ethyl ethers, (substituted) benzyl ethers and (substituted) silyl ethers with at least one substituent on the Si-atom being not a methyl group, in case m = 1; and a diol protecting group in case m = 2, with the proviso that PG is no saccharide, via an organometallic cross coupling reaction wherein a linear, straight-chain nucleophilic organometallic reagent of formula RCH<sub>2</sub>M<sub>1</sub> is reacted with a linear, straight-chain electrophile of formula LG-CH<sub>2</sub>-A-O-)<sub>m</sub>PG (or a linear, straight-chain electrophile of formula RCH<sub>2</sub>-LG with a nucleophilic organometallic reagent of formula (M<sub>1</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>-A-O-)<sub>m</sub>PG), wherein R is H or a linear, straight-chain alkyl group with 1-28 C-atoms, M<sub>1</sub> represents Li, Na, K, BZ<sub>2</sub>, wherein each Z independently represents OH, an

alkyl group or an alkoxy group, or the 2 Z-groups together form a hydrocarbon ring, MgX, wherein X=halogen, ZnX, wherein X=halogen or  $\text{CH}_2\text{Si}(\text{CH}_3)_3$ , or MnX, wherein X=halogen, A is a  $\text{C}_{0-28}$  linear, straight-chain alkylene group, LG represents a leaving group, and m and PG are as described above.

3. (original) Process according to claim 2, wherein the organometallic cross coupling reaction is performed in the presence of a transition metal catalyst and wherein M<sup>1</sup> represents MgX with X is halogen.
4. (original) Process according to claim 3, wherein the nucleophilic organometallic reagent reacts with an alkyl halide, alkyl arylsulfonate or alkyl mesylate.
5. (currently amended) Process according to ~~any one of claims 2-4~~ claim 2, wherein first the protected alcohol with formula (1) is prepared according to ~~any one of claims 2-4~~ claim 2 and subsequently the protected alcohol is subjected to deprotection.